

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Serial No. 10/653,249
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q77285

which the auxiliary operating member can be operated by a finger of an angler's hand holding the fishing rod to which the reel body is attached. The auxiliary operating member corresponds to reference numeral 55 and includes a lever-shaped operation portion 58.

Applicants further asserted that reference numeral 150 and 160 of Hitomi, which the Examiner analogizes to the claimed auxiliary operating member, are not even used for winding the fishing line on the spool 30. Rather, these members are used for controlling the drag mechanism to apply a braking force to the spool 30 when the fishing line is pulled in the unwinding direction.

Referring to the Office Action, and specifically the portion of the Office Action entitled "Response to Arguments", the Examiner refers to column 5, lines 2-13 of Hitomi and states as follows:

The Applicant describes the operating a handle portion 31 to engage and disengage the auxiliary operation member with the one-way clutch 25. When disengaged, the handle shaft is permitted free rotation, when engaged, the movement of the handle shaft is transmitted through one-way clutch 25. The Hitomi patent operates in the same way, as explained in col. 5, lines 2-13 and illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. The operating a handle portion 170 is operated to engage and disengage the auxiliary operation member 150 with the one-way clutch 160. When disengaged (Fig. 9) the handle shaft 60 is permitted free rotation, when engaged (Fig. 8), the movement of the handle shaft is transmitted through one-way clutch 160.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's analysis is simply improper. First, the Examiner is focusing on the wrong embodiment of the invention in that Applicants have elected Figures 5-8, and **not** Figures 1-4 at issue on page 11, of the Specification. Further, the Examiner has failed to properly consider the language in the claim and specifically the requirement in the

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claim that the auxiliary operating member be used for winding the fishing line on the spool. Rather, the Examiner seems to focus his attention on the disclosure in the subject application which describes the engagement and disengagement of the one-way clutch 25. The Examiner fails to consider that when it is in the engaged position, the rotational movement of the operation portion is transmitted to the handle shaft 6, through the one-way clutch 25, *to permit the auxiliary winding of the fishing line on the spool.*

Hitomi fails to disclose or suggest any such type of auxiliary operating member *for winding the fishing line on the spool.* Instead, as discussed in the previous amendment, members 150 and 160 in Hitomi are used *for controlling the drag mechanism to apply a braking force to the spool when the fishing line is pulled in the unwinding direction.* The portion of Hitomi cited by the Examiner (column 5, lines 2-15) simply describes an engaging piece 190 for placing the drag mechanism either in an on position, where the drag will be effective during the unwinding operation, and an off position, where the dragging operation will not be effective. This portion of the reference fails to describe or suggest any type of auxiliary operating member for winding the fishing line on the spool. There is simply no such disclosure in Hitomi.

With respect to the § 112 (second paragraph) rejection of claims 6-8, Applicants respectfully do not understand this rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that this claim requires that a one-way clutch 62 be disposed between rotary shaft 56 and the auxiliary operating member 55. Further, the rotary shaft 56 is rotated in response to (i.e., as a result of) rotation of the handle 50. To the extent that the Examiner continues to believe that this limitation is indefinite, Applicants invite the Examiner to make some suggestive changes.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

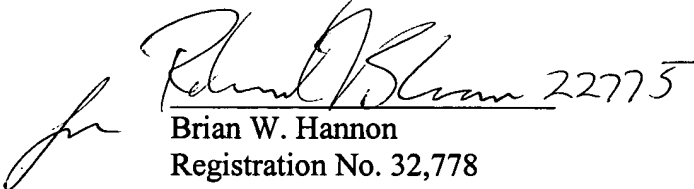
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 23, 2005